Dewan's reply.—The height of kodi or waste weir is always fixed after due consideration of all conditions affecting the safety of the tank itself. Where, however, it is possible without danger to the tank to store water at the close of the rainy season to a higher level than that at which it is necessary to keep the kodi during the season of floods, temporary dams are allowed subject to removal at the beginning of the rainy season. The proposal to make all these temporary dams permanent is most inexpedient, as it would lead to the breach of most of the tanks during the rains. Where however the kodi can in any particular case be raised with safety, the work should be of a permanent nature. This is being done by the Public Works Department whenever found necessary, and any such cases brought to notice will be duly considered by the local Revenue and Engineer officers.

Subject No. 17.

Inclusion of free grazing land in State Forests.

Summary of discussion.—At the demarcation of 1887 certain jungles in Hirikatur and other 9 villages were allotted as free grazing land. But they have been since added to State Forests.

The Forest Department are now reserving as State Forests certain jungles in Lingadahalli and Lakkavalli Maganis which are now available for grazing and than which there is no other. This should be stopped.

Dewan's reply.—The representation will be referred to the Deputy Commissioner for examination. If found necessary, the boundary of the State Forests referred to will be thrown back, as has been done in several cases brought to the notice of the local Revenue officers.

Subject No. 18.

Limitation of term of office of Municipal Commissioners.

Summary of discussion.—Members of the Municipal Board have been members from the time the Municipality was established. The office is not hereditary and yet it has been treated as if it were so. There are always a large number of eligible persons available and therefore the tenure of office should be limited to 5 years.

Dewan's reply.—The proposal is reasonable and a rule like it will be adopted with a proviso that members will be eligible for re-appointment at the end of 5 years.

Subject No. 19.

Seigniorage on fuel cut for sale.

Summary of discussion.—It has been locally proclaimed that fuel for purpose of sale can be cut in reserved tracts only on paid licenses. This will cause much hardship and the order should be countermanded.

Dewan's reply.—Impossible. Agriculturists and Mohatarfa-paying charcoal burners and iron smelters are allowed free firewood for their own *bonâ fide* use. What can be more reasonable? Surely our forests don't

exist for the trader in fuel. There is no reason why those who make a trade by cutting fuel from Government land and bringing into towns and selling it for a profit should be exempted from the prescribed seigniorage, which is a very just source of income. (See Subject No. 207.)

Subject No. 20.

Removal of silt in Madak Tank.

Summary of discussion.—Raiyats should be compelled to clear the silt in the bed of the Madak Tank as usual, receiving the day's food from Government. Every one using the water of the tank in any way is bound to do this work of clearing silt.

Colonel Bowen, the Chief Engineer, in reply to the Dewan's enquiry, explained that there is in this tank the special arrangement of an under-sluice in order to allow of some silt being washed through it, when opened. A large number of people being collected and made to stir up the muddy water and the silt when the water was low after the cultivation season, and this under-sluice being kept open, some silt did escape in that way. It was very insignificant. The process was tried by the Chief Engineer himself in the case of a tank in the Gundlupet Taluk with the result that hardly $\frac{1}{50}$th of the quantity of silt in the small area immediately round the opening was thus got rid of. The process recommended can be of no possible use. It is far better to raise the bund of the tank, so as to make good the loss of capacity due to silting. In reply to further enquiry by the Dewan, Colonel Bowen observed that the irrigating sluice was not in danger of being buried in the silt for many years to come.

Dewan's reply.—Government cannot in these days impress labor in the way suggested, nor will there be any practical benefit by the operation of silt clearing which has been described. By raising the waste weir, the loss of capacity due to silting will be made good and actual silt-clearing will also be carried out to the extent necessary to keep the irrigating sluice clear.

Subject No. 21.

Hittals for stacking straw.

Summary of discussion.—It has been a custom to make hittals in villages for stacking grass without Government authority. When such hittals were applied for heretofore by any one for building purposes, they were being sold. Now-a-days the possessors of such hittals advance claims of ownership and prevent their sale. Such claims are often allowed, thus causing inconvenience to applicants, who can find no other suitable sites to build their houses.

Dewan's reply.—This is a matter for which it is difficult to devise a remedy. Every claim to a hittal must be tried and disposed of on its merits, and where the claim is allowed the hittal of course is not available for sale to a new applicant; mere unauthorized possession cannot give a title to the hittal